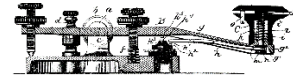




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2025, No. 8

August 2025

Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI, Voted Director in Texas VHF-FM Society Board of Direc- tors (by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ)

Aubrey, WA6DMI was voted in the Texas VHF-FM Society Board of Directors at the meeting at Radio Fiesta. Congratulations!



**Director 2024 -
2026
Aubrey Mason,
WA6DMI
13306 Gable Vil-
lage Dr
San Antonio, TX
78231**

About The Texas VHF-FM Society

The Texas VHF-FM Society was formed on August 8, 1965 in Austin, Texas. In the beginning the Society was to provide communications between the various groups in Texas doing repeater work. It was to also provide a network of parts and equipment for use in repeaters and associated activities.

In the early days of repeaters, there were few, thus there was little need for coordination efforts. However, as time marched on and the popularity of repeater operations increased, the need of frequency coordination became apparent. So in the early 1970's the Society took on the job of coordinating and setting standards for construction of repeaters and the band planning of frequencies for repeater usage in Texas. The Society continues today as a 700+ member strong, statewide

organization that represents the concerns and needs of repeater trustees in Texas.

The Society is moving into the spectrum band planning of all VHF and above amateur radio frequencies in Texas. Society staff and coordinators are researching and planning the future spectrum management of voice, digital and video frequencies in Texas. Currently, Texas has over 1600 repeaters from 10 meters to 1.2 GHz coordinated. Texas has more repeaters than several other states and coordinating bodies combined.

Coordination is performed by the Frequency Coordination Committee. Mark Stennett, NA6M, heads this committee. He has seven coordinators on the committee that coordinates various bands and zones of the state. The Society's coordinators today use computers and email for carrying out their duties.

The Society uses its resources for coordinating repeaters and spectrum management in Texas so that there may be as interference free as possible VHF-UHF operations. This is quite a job and takes many hours of work and dollars to achieve. The coordinators are all volunteers and the funds used in their efforts come directly from the dues and memberships of the Society.

To become a member of the Society is easy. Membership costs only \$15.00 per year or \$300.00 for a lifetime membership. One can become a member by sending a membership form to the Society Treasurer with the correct amount of funds.

**The next meeting, August 14 12, 2025,
will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259
Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210)
251-2602.**

(Continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
8 R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX			August 2025
TO							

Hello South Texas

While looking at old photographs from 1991, I could see the equipment that was used to build and maintain the Texnet and Netrom packet networks during that time. I was explaining the process to build a Texnet node to someone the other day and was surprised we ever attempted it.

We used a dual floppy NEC Multispeed laptop running MS-DOS and a terminal emulator to communicate to the TNC and Texnet node. An older Tektronix 20 MHz Dual Trace Oscilloscope to align the 9600 baud modem. A service monitor of some type, a 1970's Cushman CE-5 at first and then a CT Systems 2100 to validate the receive and transmit frequencies.

Building this new untested network in the field had some challenges and limitations. For example, normally a single callsign can be used 16 times on a packet radio network using SSID's. N5IUT was really N5IUT-0. I could also use N5IUT-1 to N5IUT-15 for different nodes.

Texnet out of the box was limited to N5IUT-0 to N5IUT-9. It was written in Z80 assembly language and the programmer only left room for a single input character.

This got me to thinking. I opened my ARRL Amateur Radio Handbook and looked at the ASCII table. Looking at the printable characters I observed the position the numbers 0 through 9 in the table. The next character is colon if I add one bit to the binary number. I tried it. Connect "n0ccw-:@rocprt" and the Rockport Texnet node was trying to connect to N0CCW-10.

After that I figured out the other SSID's to -15. I talked to the programmers about the discovery, they were happy it worked out. Now users could connect to all 16 SSID's across the network. Please consider buying a new ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications. They are a wealth of information.

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President SARC

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT
 President, San Antonio Radio Club
 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
 Editor
 210-563-2121
jineffjr@sbcglobal.net

The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

**San Antonio Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM July 10, 2025
Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: – Field Day summarized below.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions or changes, the minutes were passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT

- Donation of top-of-line radio equipment received from a surgeon. The club will use this gear, rather than sell it. It will be installed into a rack and stored in an environmentally controlled location, vs. the hot storage facility where we keep the club's other gear.
- BSides went well. Next year, the club will sponsor a fox hunt at the event.
- Radio Fiesta went well.
- In light of recent flooding in the Hill Country, a QST magazine article describing a similar flood from July 2, 1932 and the role hams played in providing emergency communications was included in the most recent edition of the Bexar Wire.

Vice President – Position Vacant – If interested in filling this position, contact Paul Guido.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – No report.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Board will meet August 7 via Zoom to review budget. The club budget is the main topic for discussion, as are lessons learned from Field Day and Radio Fiesta. Results will be shared at the August general membership meeting.

Education and Training – Marvin “Marlo” Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): No report

Emergency Communications – Ned Lee KG5US – Hams have been playing a role in search and recovery operations in the aftermath of the July 4th flood. It was the County Judge from Kerr County who requested amateur radio support after he had attended a Field Day event. Hams provided communications for the search teams.

Activities for June

1. Web Site-
 - a. Posted newsletters
 - b. Radio Fiesta info & flyers
 - c. Radio Fiesta volunteer form & tracker
 - d. SK Sales
 - e. Field Day 2025 => photos
2. Groups.io
 - a. Updated membership list
 - b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice, Zoom Notice
4. Twitter

MEMBERSHIP

Membership	As of 6/8/2025		
Paid 126	New Members for 2025		
Free / Mil 6	First	Last	Call
Family Members 20	Roberta	Staymates	
Free / RF 16	Scott	Seeger	
Free / VE 23	Devin	Van Volkenburg	
ARRL Members 92	John	Martin	
	James A.	Agnew	
Total Membership 191	Joan	Losiewicz	
	Daniel	Finnamore	
	Dawn	Finnamore	
	Joseph	Pesic	VA3HRK
	James	Richardson	AC9PH
	Greg	Lewis	N5XO
	Jason	Burchett	KJ5KYB
	Thomas J.	Carroll	N5OUF
	Robert	Frisby	
	Richard	MacVarish	
	Jude	Saloum	
	Joel	Eames	
	Alejandro	Ortiz	

Notes:

POTA: If activating Enchanted Rock, be aware that it has no cellphone coverage.

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – Held one at the recent BSides event.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed July 9, 2025. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April, KI5CSK: Very active this year, including 55 visitors who signed in. GOTA (Get on the Air) and others helped the curious visitors get on the air for their first time. Certificates of appreciation awarded to the Iron Operators (those who stayed overnight) and Field Day Stars (those who assisted with setting up and returning the equipment to the club's storage following the event). Aubrey Mason solicited photos from Field Day to post to the club's Facebook page.

Finance and Review – Previously completed.

JOTA – Position vacant. No Report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – Memorabilia available.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – No report.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P: 12 people tested at Field Day.
Testing opportunities:

SARC tests are at the Leon Valley library 12:00
6425 Evers Rd

Aug 23 – 12:00
 Oct 25 – 12:00 – Leon Valley Fire Station
 Dec 20 – 12:00

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Equipment available for purchase. Contact Rodney for more information.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No Report.

Scholarship Committee – Jon April, KI5CSK: This year, we will raffle Icom radios. 3 prizes. 1st: IC-7610, 2nd IC-7300, 3rd ID-52A. Nominate your favorite young local ham today for these scholarships! Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. Maximum tickets to sell: 400. This will fund two \$1,000 college scholarships.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None

Announcements

Stinson Airfield meetup every Wednesday at noon at the Tradewinds Café in the terminal for those interested in socializing while listening to aircraft communication.

MFJ has closed for business. This means several brands of gear will no longer be produced.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:32 PM.

Aubrey Mason (continued from Page 1)

Persons who are trustees of repeaters are especially encouraged to become regular members of the Society, as the Society is the recognized repeater coordination body for Texas.

Persons interested in membership to the Society can contact the officers, directors or coordinators. The Society's mailbox address is: The Texas VHF-FM Society, P.O. Box 82666, Austin, Texas 78708-2666.



The office of Vice President is vacant and we badly need it

to be filled. Duties are simple, stand in for the President when he needs to be absent from the meeting, and coordinate the program for meetings. You will have help. Contact President Paul Guido, N5IUT

Espionage on the dial



Image: Bing Image Creator

This is one of the coolest things I've learned recently: Foreign intelligence agencies still use good ol' radio to share top secrets. Even with all the powerful tech at their fingertips, radio use in espionage has actually gone up in popularity since the 2010s. Pretty wild. Russia in particular loves this technique. Why? Intelligence agencies don't trust the internet. Makes sense.

Spy-Fi: The original wireless network

Foreign agencies have been using shortwave radio frequencies to broadcast coded messages for decades.

Starting in the mid-1960s, if you tuned your radio to shortwave frequencies between 5.422 and 16.084 megahertz (MHz), you might hear music ... or you might hear a

woman's voice with an English accent reading number combinations.

The U.K.'s MI6 intelligence agency and other spy networks used these "number stations" until at least 2008 to talk to operatives in the field. Whoa.

All secrets, all the time

This tactic is still very much alive and well. In 2020, the FBI discovered messages being sent to Russian deep-cover officers living in Massachusetts. Last year, researchers caught Russia's foreign intelligence agency, SVR, broadcasting a test transmission in French.

But it's not just Russia. Taiwan is active now. The "Star Star" station (V13) broadcasts coded messages to agents in mainland China, complete with flute music intros.

So, what's the advantage? Even encrypted phones can be hacked. It's also easier than ever to plant spyware on a device.

The secret's in the signal

In each broadcast, the sender and receiver use what's called a "one-time pad" to encrypt and decrypt the message. It's basically a matching list of random numbers, no fancy spy gear required.

Of course, anyone listening could pick up on other patterns and blow up an agency's spot. For example, a broadcast pattern could reveal how many agents there are and when or where they're active.

When the FBI discovered the 2020 broadcasts, they realized the messages corresponded to the specific rooms active operatives were in!

⚡ The static society

Russia still has a shortwave station nicknamed “The Pip” that sends out nonstop beeps, with the occasional voice cutting in. It’s a perfect example of how old-school spy tactics never really go out of style.

Even with satellites, encrypted apps and AI everywhere, number stations are still going strong. They’re simple, anonymous and nearly impossible to trace.

If you’re loving this story and want to geek out, check out [Priyom](#), a group of international radio enthusiasts who track number stations around the world. They have chat rooms to swap stories, and their website follows intelligence, military and diplomatic communication via shortwave radio.

(Donated by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ)

Warning, Q. R. Zedd is Coming!

Periodically your editor gives fair warning at meetings that he needs material and if new material is not forthcoming, he will gin up something. Many years ago, I came across a series of tall tales about a legendary Oklahoma DX-er named Q. R. Zedd, A5A. At the time I thought the somewhat sophomoric exaggerations were funny. They sound like the old tall tales common to Texas history.

I found the owner of the rights to the series, and he has given me permission to publish them. The information and equipment referenced in the articles are a bit dated but the outlandish nature of the super ham operator still rings true. Old-timers will recognize the equipment, newer hams just roll with it.. Perhaps you can identify with the super amateur operator.

Zedd was primarily a CW operator, but no mode was safe from his predations.

Here is more on the origin and source of these stories:

“Zedd, Q.R.

Q.R. Zedd was a running feature in the Central Oklahoma Radio Amateur’s (CORA) newsletter entitled the “Collector and Emitter”. This feature ran monthly from September 1981 through April 1990. Local author, amateur radio operator, and SCARS member, silent key (SK) KU5B ex WB5TZZ [Jack Bickham](#) wrote these for his own enjoyment, and for the local Oklahoma City amateur radio community. In these 105 stories, the tales of the great Q.R. Zedd A5A are documented, with a number of the local hams woven into the storyline. Some took great pride in being included in the stories, others, not so much. It is said that these stories were loosely based on the life and times of Gordon Jones W5OU, in superhuman form. “

(Editor Note) Of course, any reference to a superhuman amateur from Oklahoma would elicit a response from we proud amateurs of Texas. Therefore, I’ll start the series off with a letter from an amateur in Texas laying down the gauntlet.

Texas Letter-Writer Blasts Editor, Q.R. Zedd

(Originally published in the March 1982 issue of the Collector and Emitter.)

(The following letter was received recently by KU5B, chronicler of the exploits of Oklahoma's greatest DXer, Q.R. Zedd.)

Dear Nerd,

Well, you have finally done it. A lot of us down here in Texas have tried our best to be patient with your idiocy, but we can no longer remain silent in the face of your continual boasting about Q.R. Zedd.

What you do is, you make me sick.

You must know, if you are honest that we down here in Texas can always beat you in football, tobacco juice spitting, bull riding and cow chip throwing. I don't know what made you think anybody from Oklahoma could beat our best at Ming and being an all-around great fellow and terrific amateur radio operator.

Why, we have someone right here within fifty miles of my own home town of Meadowmuffin who is twice the DXer that Q.R. Zedd ever was, and our man does not live in the past and go on his old reputation the way that has-been, Zedd, does.

I speak, of course, of the great Dingfod Armstrong of nearby Cow's Bag, Texas. Dingfod is clearly a much greater person than Zedd.

Admit it! Who was it they asked if it was all right before they done it when the ARRL decided to start life memberships? Who was it that worked the Clipperton expedition, a record 616 logged contacts a couple of years back? Who has the only recorded QSL representing a two-way SSB contact with the Red Spot of Jupiter? Who put the tong in Datong and the R.L. in Drake? Who named the KWM 380 after his own 160-meter QRP DXCC Country total?

Do you give?

Let me just remind you a few more things about Dingfod. He is the son of the famous Jack Armstrong, who was the best-known of the Hudson River High boys. He worked for Wheaties back in the 30s and 40s, you will recall, and a lot of people thought ole Jack was a commercial radio show. Actually, he had a real adventuresome life, and what he did was, he remoted his daily existence via amateur radio and it just happened to get picked up by commercial interests. As it became clear to Jack Armstrong later that he was being exploited, and his ham transmissions used for profit by others, he went QRT on all bands after announcing that he was no longer the All-American Boy. That was in 1943, when he was 36 years old.

Dingfod, born between episodes of Jack Armstrong and Mandrake the Magician, came into the world with a silver inductor in his mouth, you might say. He is now 42, a heck of a lot younger than your relic, Zedd. He has worked as many countries, knows more about hamming in general, and is more handsome.

In case you don't have all the records right there in front of you, just let are set the record straight.

Dingfod presently has 627 countries confirmed on all bands between 160 and 2 meters. He was the only amateur in the world to work Thomas E. Dewey back in 1948 while Dewey was the Chicago Tribune's elected president for fifteen minutes. Dingfod is the inventor of the Yagi antenna, which of course is named after him, as well as the long wire and the ground loop, which also

works with airplanes. He lives on his ranch near Cow's Bag with his beloved wife, Bubbles and her roadshow agent, Thomas "Las Vegas" Calaricci, formerly of San Quentin. Dingfod has never used a piece of commercial radio gear and builds everything himself from scratch. His designs get stolen by commercial interests almost before his soldering iron has cooled. His present station, all homebrew, consists of six fantastic all-band, all-mode, all-American, receivers, six 200-watt PEP input transmitters with special Dingfod-designed speech processors and Hostess twinkie dispensers built into the digital displays, seven (one for standby) walk-in linears featuring ten CX-1000s each in their respective output stages, and of course the antenna farm that has been declared a national menace by the Airline Pilots Assn. of America.

Dingfod is the only amateur radio operator ever invited by President Reagan to come eat on the new china. Even Barry Goldwater, when he went, had to use a paper plate. Arthur Godfrey never got invited at all — nor did your other pet, Bill ,Blast — and as we all know, Vice President Bush hardly counts since he failed his novice test.

Speaking of Blast, you know it really makes us all sick down here the way you keep talking like HE is something, too. Him and his big shot DX net. Who does he think he is kidding? Only clods will work a new DX country on a net anyway, and we know most of those contacts are fake, and his son-in-law, Rich Little, is always in the shack.

We called Dingfod and asked him if it was all right to write you this letter pointing out his superiority, and I took down his reply-on my Sony. Here is what he said, if you want a quote: "Why, sure, son, don't mind at all...surely don't, surely don't. Only listen, boy,, don't put down pore ole Q.R. too much. He can't hep it he's a has-been, and remember: we all got an obligation to be kind to the senile. You know, them Okies, they'got such an inferiority complexion anyways, I would shore hate to stir 'em up. Jus' say I'm okay an' Q.R. is okay, an' we'll let er go at that? Roger?"

It just goes to show you how modest he is, on top of everything else!
So please, let's not have any more of that Zedd garbage from that turkey, KU5B. As Tom Landry used to say, "Thomas, if you don't shut up, you're going to be traded," and of course You know how that came out.

Which reminds me, Dingfod is the only amateur radio operator ever that got the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders out to cheer him on in a 10-meter contest. Put that in your logbook and smoke it!
It is only too bad there is not some way we could get your crummy Zedd and that dumb bunny, Bill Blast, together with our magnificent Dingfod Armstrong. He would blow them off the face of the earth on SSB, CW, RTTY, fast scan or slow scan, facsimile, building code practice oscillators or tin cans connected with a piece of taut thread at fifty paces.
But I suppose it will never be because Zedd and Blast know how inferior they are, and they will just sit up there in Oklahoma and Washington, respectively, and shoot off their big yaps about the old days.

Incidentally, you can't even beat us on editors. The editor of our local ham magazine is a lot older than Olde Joe Harding. He is balder, too. Telly Savalas came to our editor for bald lessons.

73,

Cappy Satyr

Meadowmuffin, Tx.

PS: My call used to be W5AAAA, but I let it lapse in protest against incentive licensing.

PSS: I am not saying Q.R. Zedd is senile and living in the past, but if he ever regains consciousness again, tell him Knute Rockne is no longer coaching at Notre Dame, and football teams don't use the single wing any more, and FDR isn't president, and see what he says. Ha, ha!

(Editor's Note from KU5B: We will endeavor to get a response from the great Q.R. Zedd and also from Bill Blast. In the meantime, one can only say that there are days when we wish Texas had never been discovered by that guy working for Roto-Rooter of Ardmore.)



Volunteer Examiners at Work

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator



Register at [HamTest@w5sc.org](https://www.hamtestatw5sc.org)

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."



SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

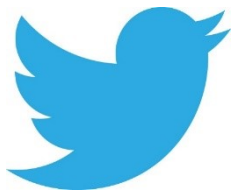
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.



Reminder: there are two active X (Twitter) accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Pa

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
Ned Lee, KG5US RACES Bexar County
210-344-3481/210-391-8258

The ARES EC for Bexar County is Patricia
Coley, KI7IEE,
Phone 206 949-8974
email cosmicfire@gmail.com

Radio Fiesta 2026

Radio Fiesta 2026 will be at Schertz Civic Center on June 6-7. Get a table and bring stuff to sell or just come in and browse the deals, listen to the presentations and swap tales. Hope to see you there!

Field Day 2025

Field Day 2025 was June 28 – 29 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty second year. Start planning for FD 2026, where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check the club web page, W5SC.org

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com

License Testing Dates for 2025

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL's VEC.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing." If not otherwise noted, testing site is Leon Valley Library, 6425 Evers Rd, Leon Valley, TX 78238

Scheduled for 2025

June 7 Radio Fiesta 1:30
June 29 Field day
Aug 23 12:00
Oct 25 12:00 Leon Valley Fire Station
Dec 20 12:00

SARC Meeting Dates for 2025

January 9, 2025
February 13, 2025
March 13, 2025
April 10, 2025
May 8, 2025
June 12, 2025
July 10, 2025
August 14, 2025
September 11, 2025
October 9, 2025
November 13, 2025
December – No meeting

Meetings are normally held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper